

I/We Claim:

1. A method for processing data corresponding to a first service and received from a wireless system that includes a first base station and a second base station, the method comprising:

- (a) receiving a first burst of data packets from the first base station, wherein the first burst corresponds to the first service;
- (b) performing a handover from the first base station to the second base station;
- (c) receiving a second burst of data packets from the second base station, wherein the second burst corresponds with the first service; and
- (d) if an error is detected within the second burst, correcting the error in accordance with a first forward error correcting (FEC) code, wherein the error results from the handover.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein (d) comprises:

- (i) determining whether a first data packet is missing from the second burst of data packets; and
- (ii) calculating the first data packet from the second burst of data packets in accordance with the first FEC code.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein (d) comprises:

- (i) determining whether a received symbol is incorrect, wherein the received symbol is contained in one of the data packets of the second burst; and
- (ii) correcting the received symbol, wherein the received symbol is equal to a corresponding transmitted symbol.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein (d) further comprises:

- (iii) if numbering of received data packets is not consecutive in the second burst, rearranging the received data packets so that the numbering is consecutive; and
- (iv) if duplicate data packets are received within the second burst, discarding one of the duplicate data packets.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein (d) is performed at an application layer.

6. The method of claim 2, wherein (i) comprises:

(1) determining packet numbers that are associated with received packets of the second burst, wherein the packet numbers correspond to a transmitted packet ordering;

(2) if a packet number is missing from the received data packets, inserting a null symbol to signify an erasure within the second burst, wherein the null symbol is associated with a missing data packet.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the first FEC code comprises a block forward error correcting (FEC) code.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the first FEC code comprises an expandable forward error correcting code.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

(e) receiving configuration information about the first FEC code.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the configuration information is received over an overhead channel from one of a plurality of base stations that are associated with the wireless system.

11. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

(e) receiving a third burst of data packets from the first base station, wherein the third burst corresponds to a second service;

(f) performing a handover from the first base station to the second base station;

(g) receiving a fourth burst of data packets from the second base station, wherein the second burst corresponds to the second service; and

(h) if another error is detected within the fourth burst, correcting the other error by utilizing a second FEC code.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein (b) comprises:
 - (i) measuring a first signal characteristic of a first signal that is transmitted by the first base station;
 - (ii) measuring a second characteristic of a second signal that is transmitted by the second base station; and
 - (iii) if the first signal characteristic satisfies a first predefined criterion and if the second signal characteristic satisfies a second predefined criterion, switching reception from the first base station to the second base station.
13. The method of claim 1, wherein the first base station is associated with a first center frequency value and the second base station is associated with a second center frequency value.
14. The method of claim 1, wherein the first base station is associated with a first channelization code and the second base station is associated with a second channelization code.
15. The method of claim 1, wherein the first service is an Internet Protocol (IP) service.
16. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 1.
17. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 2.

18. A wireless terminal that receives data from a wireless system, the wireless system comprising a first base station and a second base station, comprising:

a storage buffer;

a timing module;

a radio module that communicates with the wireless system over a radio channel;

a processor that receives an indication from the timing module that one of a plurality of bursts of data packets is being transmitted and that stores said one of plurality of bursts into the storage buffer, the processor configured to perform:

(a) receiving a first burst of data packets from the first base station, wherein the first burst corresponds to an associated service;

(b) performing a handover from the first base station to the second base station;

(c) receiving a second burst of data packets from the second base station, wherein the second burst corresponds to the associated service; and

(d) if an error is detected within the second burst, correcting the error in accordance with a forward error correcting (FEC) code, wherein the error results from the handover.

19. The wireless terminal of claim 18, wherein the processor is configured to perform:

(i) determining whether a first data packet is missing from the second burst of data packets; and

(ii) calculating the first data packet from the second burst of data packets in accordance with the FEC code.

20. A service source that sends information to a wireless terminal through a wireless system, the wireless system comprising a first base station and a second base station, comprising:

a storage buffer;

a network interface; and

a processor, the processor configured to perform:

(a) obtaining the information from an information source, the information being associated with a service;

(b) forming a plurality of data packets from the information and storing the plurality of data packets into the storage buffer;

(c) determining a forward error correcting (FEC) code that provides a desired degree of robustness corresponding to the service and a possible loss of data packets when the wireless terminal handovers from the first base station to the second base station, wherein the first base station and the second base station transmit bursts of data packets;

(d) encoding the plurality of data packets in accordance with the forward error correcting (FEC) code; and

(e) retrieving the plurality of data packets from the storage buffer and sending the plurality of data packets to the wireless terminal through the network interface.

21. The service source of claim 20, wherein (c) comprises:

(i) receiving at least one parameter about the FEC code.

22. The service source of claim 20, wherein the FEC code is determined in accordance with a potential loss of data packets when a wireless terminal performs a handover.

23. The service source of claim 20, wherein the FEC code is selected in accordance with the service.

24. A method for processing data corresponding to a first service and received from a wireless system that includes a first base station and a second base station, the method comprising:

- (a) receiving a first burst of data packets from the first base station, wherein the first burst corresponds to the associated service;
- (b) performing a handover from the first base station to the second base station;
- (c) receiving a second burst of data packets from the second base station, wherein the second burst corresponds to the associated service;
- (d) determining packet numbers that are associated with received packets of the second burst, wherein the packet numbers correspond to a transmitted packet ordering;
- (e) if a packet number is missing from the received data packets, inserting a null symbol to signify an erasure within the second burst, wherein the null symbol is associated with a missing data packet; and
- (f) calculating the first data packet from the second burst of data packets in accordance with a forward error correcting (FEC) code.